

## CLAIMS:

1. A combination of a cholesteric layer switchable between a cholesterically ordered wavelength-selectively reflective state and a transmissive state and a homeotropic orientation layer which is in direct contact with the cholesteric layer.
- 5 2. A combination as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cholesteric layer is sandwiched between a homeotropic alignment layer and a planar alignment layer.
3. An electro-optical cell, such as a light valve or a display cell, comprising a pair of opposed substrates and a combination as claimed in claim 1 or 2 sandwiched between  
10 the said pair of substrates.
4. An electro-optical device, such as a display device, comprising a cell as claimed in claim 3.
- 15 5. A polymerized cholesteric layer ordered in a cholesterically ordered state capable of wavelength-selectively reflecting polarized light obtainable by polymerizing a polymerizable cholesteric layer in a cholesterically ordered state capable of wavelength-selectively reflecting polarized light, the polymerizable layer being, during polymerization, in direct contact with a homeotropic alignment layer.